

General Information

Applications are mailed each year in February to all public and nonpublic high schools and all GED Centers. A copy may be obtained through your high school guidance counselor or GED Center.

Specific information on the Robert C. Byrd Scholarship Program may be obtained by calling the Louisiana Department of Education at (225) 342-2098, toll-free at (877) 453-2721, via email at melissa.hollins@la.gov or by writing to the following address:

Louisiana Department of Education
Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship
Post Office Box 94064
Baton Rouge, LA 70804

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Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program

2006



State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education

Louisiana Department of Education

Cecil J. Picard, State Superintendent of Education

What it means to be a Byrd Scholar

The story of Robert C. Byrd, founder of the Byrd Scholars Program, is a classic American saga of success and achievement. Robert C. Byrd of West Virginia overcame much adversity to become a leader in the United States Senate, where he has now served for about 35 years.

Orphaned at three years of age by a flu epidemic, Byrd was reared by an aunt and uncle in West Virginia until his graduation as valedictorian during the Great Depression in the 1930s. After various menial jobs and a stint as a welder on battleships during the World War II years, he returned to West Virginia and was first elected to the state house, then the U.S. House of Representatives, and later the U.S. Senate. While a Senator, he spent ten years going to law school at night and earning a law degree, cum laude.

Senator Byrd has had a career-long concern for education and training of America's young people. His considerable influence as a Democratic leader of the Senate helped secure passage in 1965 of federal legislation to help high school graduates attend college. The result of his efforts is the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program.

Given on the basis of merit, the Byrd Scholarship recognizes students' past accomplishments and rewards them in a way that encourages future academic success.

Guidelines

Applicants for the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program must meet the following criteria:

1. Must have earned a diploma from a public or private secondary school or received the recognized equivalent of a high school diploma (GED) in the State of Louisiana in the same academic year in which the scholarship is to be awarded;
2. Must have earned a G.P.A. of 3.5 and have an ACT composite score of 23 or SAT verbal and math score of 970 (average standard score of 620 or above on the GED test);
3. Must have demonstrated outstanding academic achievement and promise of continued academic achievement;
4. Must attend an accredited institution of higher education, an accredited proprietary institution of higher education or an accredited postsecondary vocational institution (NOTE: A military academy is not an eligible institution);
5. Must be a United States Citizen;
6. Must be a legal resident of the State of Louisiana.

All parts of the State are fairly represented, and no part of the State has a disproportionate share of awards. Scholarships shall be awarded for a period of not more than four years for the first four years of undergraduate study. Each scholarship award shall be for a maximum of \$1,500 per year, not to exceed the student's total cost of attendance.

Criteria for Continued Eligibility

Recipients of the Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program must:

- Maintain fulltime undergraduate status during each subsequent semester/quarter;
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress as determined by the institution of higher education, proprietary institution of higher education, or postsecondary vocational institution;
- Not be in default of any other federal financial assistance program.



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